

tribes frequently eat horse-flesh, although, curious enough, the Calmucks are said never to taste swine or poultry! while smoked equine hams and roasted colt's haunches are always esteemed by the former as choice, savoury delicacies, and luxurious feeding; at the same time that the fermented milk of mares furnish their greatly-prized intoxicating beverage, called "koumiss."

Prejudice and previous habits would, no doubt, act as powerful obstacles if any attempt were made to introduce the animal food in question as a substitute for beef and mutton, or even as an addition to other articles of that sort now consumed in most parts of Europe; nevertheless, the facts narrated in reference to horse-flesh should at least show the subject here mooted merits further investigation.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Brook-street, October, 1857.

JOHN WEBSTER, M.D.

## ACTION OF WATER ON LEAD.

CAUTION TO BUILDERS AND ARCHITECTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your journal of August 29th you give a leader on Sanitary Reform, appreciating the benefits derived from the labours of the medical profession, whilst the "architect and the builder have been the most inattentive to the increasing wants and requirements of the community." I have watched their inattention to sanitary improvement for a period of nearly twenty years, at the commencement of which time I discovered the action of water on lead in this locality, and urgently pointed out the necessity of removing lead intended for the transmission of water, and on no account to lay down that metal in newly-erected dwellinghouses. Now what has been the result of their perverseness? Why, just what we might have predicted,—viz., innumerable cases of lead-poisoning, some of which have been near requiring a coroner's investigation.

Every allowance can be made for those who have had no opportunity of proving that the water in certain localities is capable of taking up lead; but when the fact has been fully established, one incurs a criminal responsibility by using that metal for raising water from the wells, &c. There is, no doubt, some difficulty in finding a substitute for lead, but this excuse will not justify its use when the health and lives of hundreds of individuals are concerned.

It is a remarkable fact that those who habitually take water in various domestic forms are the first to cry out that "Southampton is a relaxing atmosphere," as stated, for instance, in the House of Commons when the Netley Hospital was the subject of discussion. It is not, however, the atmosphere which is so enervating (as generally supposed), but in most cases it is due to minute instillations of lead into the system, resulting from the indiscriminate use of that metal by builders and others, who are mainly responsible for the evil extending itself in every direction.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Southampton, Oct. 1857.

HENRY OSBORN, M.D.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I take the liberty of calling the attention of your readers to the subjoined letter which appeared in the *Civil Service Gazette* of the 10th instant.

I could point to other similar instances where the certificates of several gentlemen of the highest standing in the medical profession were utterly disregarded, and deserving candidates rejected, on the ground of physical inability, whose after career has plainly demonstrated that they were thoroughly qualified for the situation to which they aspired.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

October, 1857.

W. E. B.

To the Editor of the "*Civil Service Gazette*."

"Sir,—I had recently the honour of being nominated to a very desirable situation in one of the government offices, and was instructed to proceed to London at once, bringing along with me certificates of health, age, and character. This I accordingly did; but, on proceeding to the office, I was told that I had to undergo a medical examination before I could be admitted into the presence of her Majesty's civil service commissioners. Being in perfect health, I fancied that I should

have no difficulty in passing this ordeal; and you may fancy my surprise and disappointment when I received a letter a few days afterwards, informing me that the medical referee had reported that I was unfit for the duties of the office, and that therefore my appointment must be cancelled. Convinced that a mistake had been committed, I resolved to take the opinion of one or two eminent physicians, who strongly assert that they can find nothing the matter with me.

"Now, Sir, I do not mean to accuse a man of such high standing in his profession as Dr. —, of intentionally injuring my prospects, far from it; but I think it would be well, in cases of suspected delicacy of constitution, to subject the candidate to a short period of probation, during which he is to receive no remuneration; and if his health cannot stand this test, then let him be rejected, but not till then. I throw out this suggestion on behalf of any poor mortal who, in time to come, may be placed in the same awkward position as myself. —I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, JUSTITIA."

## Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, October 22nd, 1857.

CARTER, ALFRED, St. Ann's-bay, Jamaica.

HOWARD, JOHN, Woodford.

SWEETING, THOMAS, Wakefield, Yorkshire.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.—List of gentlemen on whom the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on the 24th of October, 1857:—

AFFLECK, ROBERT, M.R.C.S. Edin., Edinburgh.

ANDREWS, H. CHARLES, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London.

CAPRON, EDWARD, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Guildford, Surrey.

COLLES, JOHN ARMSTRONG P., M.R.C.S.I., Dublin.

DANIELL, CYRUS O., M.R.C.S., late Royal Artillery.

DAVIS, WM. F., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London.

DIXEY, AUGUSTUS E., M.R.C.S., Finchley, Middlesex.

DONNET, JAS. JOHN L., M.R.C.S. Edin., R.N.

ELIN, GEORGE, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Hertford.

GILLESPIE, JOHN WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S. Edin., Cork.

HOWARD, JOHN SIMPSON, Madras.

HOZIER, WM. HENRY, M.R.C.S.I., Greenville, U.S.

JONES, WM. P., M.R.C.S., Wellington, Salop.

MILLER, DAVID, M.R.C.S. Edin., Glasgow.

NORTON, SELBY, L.A.C., West Malling, Kent.

RENGIFO, PIO, M.R.C.S., New Granada.

ROBERTSON, DOUGLAS M. C. L. A., M.R.C.S. Edin., Edinburgh.

SKINNER, THOMAS, M.R.C.S. Edin., Edinburgh.

SMITH, F. MOORE, M.R.C.S., Great Hatcham, Herts.

SMITH, WM. ABBOTTS, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Southam, Warwickshire.

SUMPTER, WALTER, L.A.C., Horncastle, Lincolnshire.

WHITE, CHARLES WILLIAM, Madras.

ROYAL ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL.—At the election of surgeon to this institution, which took place last week, the numbers returned at the close of the poll stood thus: Adams, 377; Brodhurst, 277. But we are informed that Mr. Hanbury, one of the most influential supporters of the institution, and several other gentlemen connected with the charity, have forwarded a requisition demanding a general court of governors, and a strict scrutiny into the legality of certain votes, especially sixty that were polled by Mr. Jacob Bell.

MR. TRAVERS.—This distinguished surgeon has just been appointed Serjeant-Surgeon to her Majesty, in the vacancy occasioned by the decease of Mr. Keate.

PORTRAIT OF MR. SOLLY, F.R.S.—An excellent portrait of Mr. Solly has just been published by Mr. Renshaw. The artist, Mr. G. F. Teniswood, has produced a very striking likeness.

LONDON DENTAL DISPENSARY, CLARENCE-GARDENS, REGENT'S-PARK.—Total number of patients relieved, from February 20th, 1855, to December 31st, 1856, 1085; number of teeth extracted, 737; number of teeth stopped, 136; number of patients whose teeth have been scaled or cleaned, 75; number of patients who have otherwise applied for advice, 298.